CLEAN WATER ACTION

CONNECTICUT

Testimony of Roger Smith, Campaign Director, Clean Water Action
Energy and Technology Committee March 16, 2010

Testimony <u>in Support of</u> House Bill 5508: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE DIVISION OF ELECTRICITY POLICY AND PROCUREMENT.

Clean Water Action is a national environmental non-profit dedicated to protecting human health with 25,000 Connecticut members. We have worked on energy-related issues in Connecticut since 1998.

We are increasingly concerned about the implications of Connecticut's fragmentation of energy policy and programs, especially in a time when the federal government is making significant incentives available for states.

Connecticut lacks:

- An entity to implement the CT Integrated Resource Plan
- An entity to conduct long-range planning regarding electricity and heating fuels
- An entity to track and make sure CT applies for all federal energy grants
- An entity to support municipalities with technical assistance to apply for federal energy grants and make use of state energy programs
- An entity to administer energy financing programs for the state
- An entity to set standards and qualify Performance Contractors for public facilities

We support HB 5508 as taking a step towards solving these problems by coordinating energy policy and implementation under a Public Utilities Control Authority. We ask that this **authority's role encompass electricity and heating fuels** from the start- if not now, when? Our use of energy resources (particularly natural gas) in one sector affects others.

Specific Comments on the bill:

Section 1 (b) should replace "diverse indigenous and regional electric resources" with "renewable indigenous and regional electric resources." Diverse seems meaningless- our current system relies on in and out-of-state generators and that isn't likely to change.

Public Act 07-242 had tighter, more specific language which should explicitly guide our energy implementation just as it guides our state integrated resource plan:

> (d) The procurement plan shall consider: (1) Approaches to maximizing the impact of demand-side measures; (2) the extent to which generation needs can be met by renewable and combined heat and power facilities; (3) the optimization of the use of generation sites and generation portfolio existing within the state; (4) fuel types, diversity, availability, firmness of supply and security and environmental impacts thereof, including impacts on meeting the state's greenhouse gas emission goals; (5) reliability, peak load and energy forecasts, system contingencies and existing resource

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